

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system can process a digital representation (DF) of a document with a one-way
cryptographic hash function (CHF) to yield a digital fingerprint (DFP) value that is
associated with the DF. A document identification number (DID) is created, uniquely
associated with the DFP, and with DID and DFP are associated optional credential
information (C). A registration certificate DFC that represents an optional electronic
signature associated with the document and that includes the DID and DFP is
promulgated and archived at a plurality of storage locations. The system can
authenticate whether a putative document is the original document by generating a
digital fingerprint value for the putative document and comparing it to DFP retrieved
from various of the storage locations. Authentication can confirm that the electronic
signature is unaltered.

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